



Duane Listed on National Historical Register

The United States Coast Guard Cutter *Duane* artificial reef was officially listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Florida Secretary of State Katherine Harris made the announcement about the new status on June 15, 2002.

The Coast Guard Cutter *Duane* was a steam turbine propulsion 327-foot Secretary Class Cutter built in 1936 at the U.S. Naval Yard in Philadelphia. She was one of seven such vessels, and was named for William J. Duane, Secretary of the Treasury under Andrew Jackson. She had various assignments before being sent to the Atlantic, where she eventually served with the U.S. Atlantic Fleet. Her service included an impressive wartime and peacetime record.

Today, the Cutter *Duane* lies upright on a sandy bottom in 120 feet of water one mile south of Molasses Reef off Key Largo. After being decommissioned on August 1, 1985 as the oldest active U.S. military vessel, the *Duane* was donated to the Keys Association of Dive Operators for use as an artificial reef. On November 27, 1987 she was towed to Molasses Reef, her hatches opened, her holds pumped full of water, and down she went to begin her final assignment. The ship is located in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and is one of the sites on the Sanctuary's *Shipwreck Trail*.

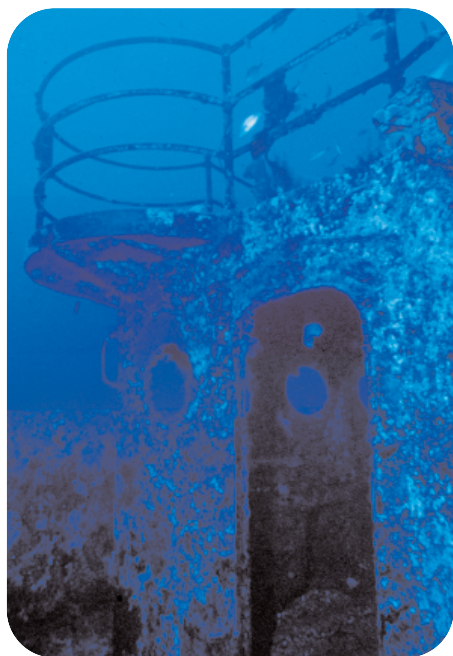
The nomination to the National Register was placed by Charles Beeker, Director of the Indiana University Underwater Science and Educational Resources Program. In 1998, Beeker and his students produced a report detailing the history of ships included on the *Shipwreck Trail*.

The *Duane* initially handled search and rescue and law enforcement from the Port of Oakland, California. In 1939 the *Duane* was sent to the North Atlantic to assist shipping and, in 1941, went to Greenland to help provide protection from German invasion. The *Duane's* search and rescue efforts saved 46 sailors from a British merchant ship sunk by a German U-boat and assisted in the rescue of 250 survivors from the U.S. Army transport *Dorchester* in the North Atlantic. On April 17, 1943 the *Duane* and sister ship the *Spencer* sank a German U-boat and rescued 22 crew members from the destroyed Nazi vessel. Post war duties included further search and rescue, a tour of duty in Vietnam as part of the Coastal Surveillance Force and drug intervention. In 1980 the *Duane* was one of several Coast Guard cutters transporting Cubans during the Mariel Boat Lift.

*Note: This article appeared in the Fall 2002 issue of the newsletter of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, **Sounding Line**. For more information, visit: floridakeys.noaa.gov.*



The Coast Guard Cutter *Duane* became an artificial reef in August 1987.



The *Duane* lies on a sandy bottom in 120 feet of water. The *Duane* is a popular wreck dive.

Web Resources about USS *Duane* and Historic Wrecks

US Coast Guard Cutter *Duane*

<http://www.indiana.edu/~r317doc/327/duane.html>

Shipwreck Trail of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

http://www.fknms.nos.noaa.gov/sanctuary_resources/shipwreck_trail/welcome.html

Indiana University Report about the *Duane*

<http://www.indiana.edu/~r317doc/327/d-report.html>